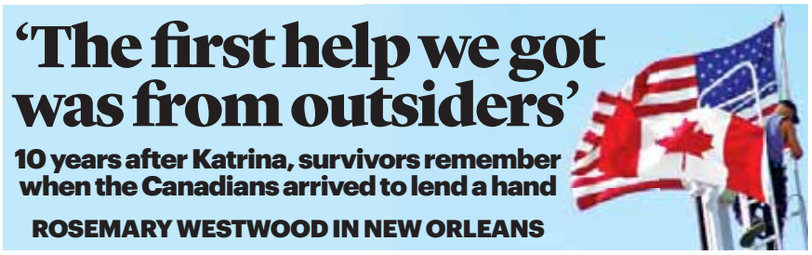
'The first help we got was from outsiders'
10 years after Katrina, survivors remember when the Canadians arrived to lend a hand
ROSEMARY WESTWOOD IN NEW ORLEANS

Calgary metro

Your essential daily news | WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2015 | High 24°C/Low 11°C Still Smoky

AIR QUALITY HEALTH INDEX
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 +
LOW RISK
MODERATE RISK
HIGH RISK
VERY HIGH RISK
Calgary air is off the scales
JENNIFER FRIESEN/METRO

Smoke prompts warnings

HEALTH

Tuesday saw dangerously poor air quality

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

As smoke took a stranglehold over Calgary, officials issued multiple health warnings to Calgarians Tuesday.

As of Tuesday morning, air quality was at "high-risk," later reaching a dangerous 12 on the air quality index, according to Alberta Health Services.

Spokesman Bruce Conway said AHS received 23 calls to Health Link from the Calgary Zone from 8 a.m. Monday to 9 a.m. Tuesday.

In comparison to its average walk-in rate, AHS said it saw 20 more visits — from those who had respiratory and cardiac complaints — to its emergency department on Monday.

However, AHS said it couldn't confirm those visits were a result of the poor air quality.

Tuesday afternoon, the Calgary Fire Department issued a fire ban, warning citizens that personal fires could "exasperate an already poor situation."

Calgary fire marshal Ed Kujat said the ban restricts all outdoor fires, indoor fireplaces that burn wood, chimneys and the use of solid fuels.

He said the fire department is closely monitoring the situation.

WITH FILES FROM JEREMY SIMES

MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 8

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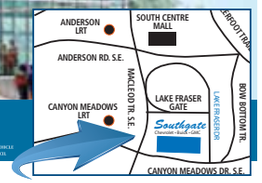

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

British say Big Ben running a few seconds slow. **World**

Calgary police want speeding to mean seizing

LEGISLATION

Lead-footed drivers not deterred by tough fines

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

A change of speed might be just around the corner for Alberta drivers after three governing bodies in the province have voiced thoughts toward changing excessive-speed legislation.

Last week Edmonton Police Chief Rod Knetch pleaded for the new NDP government to rethink legislation following two deaths in two days in Edmonton attributed to excessive speed.

Kevin Brookwell, spokesman for the Calgary Police Service, said Tuesday the CPS "absolutely supports what Chief Knetch is proposing" with respect to police having the right to seize vehicles travelling 60 km/h over the speed limit.

Friday, Transportation Minister Brian Mason's office said they're "always open to hearing from law enforcement about how to make our roads safer for Albertans."

Brookwell said CPS would like to see similar legislation to that in Ontario, British Columbia and Quebec here in Alberta, especially given the staggering statistics from within city limits.

Calgary police issued 771 tickets to Calgary motorists in 2014 who exceeded the speed limit by 50 km/h or more, according to Brookwell.

"This isn't just happening on Deerfoot, it's in residential areas where the typical speed limit is 50 km/h and people are driving 100 or more," he said. "This is a significant risk to the public and potential injury to people."

Brookwell said it seems as though fines just aren't enough of a deterrent for lead-footed drivers in Calgary.

> **"This isn't just happening on Deerfoot, it's in residential areas.**
> Police spokesman Kevin Brookwell

"Right now if you are 50 km/h or over it is a mandatory court appearance," he said. "You have to go before a judge and explain your actions and they decide the severity of the fine."

Sitting down with the current government and making a plan to deal with this problem is the next step, said Brookwell.

"Certainly there is enough statistics and there have been enough consequences in the community to prove there needs to be change," he said.

Police spokesman Kevin Brookwell says the CPS "absolutely supports" what Edmonton Police Chief Rod Knetch is proposing. METRO FILE

771
Motorists ticketed for travelling more than 50 km/h over speed limit in 2014.

65
Serious or fatal collisions involving excessive speed in 2014.

12
Collisions where the driver was travelling 40 km/h over the limit in 2014.

DEATH

Police ID shooting victim

Police have identified the victim of a fatal shooting that took place in the city's northeast Saturday.

Staff Sgt. Doug Andrus said the victim, who was gunned down in his car in the community of Monterey Park, was identified as 27-year-old David Quach, following an autopsy done by the office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

Andrus said police responded to a calls of multiple gunshots and an injured man on a driveway of the 7000 of California Blvd. N.E.

"The witness who called in the complaint was driving by when he saw the victim laying next to a car that was parked in the driveway," said Andrus. "The victim got up, entered the vehicle and reversed into the roadway striking the witness's vehicle. He then exited the car and fell to the ground."

Quach was transported to hospital where he died as a result of his injuries, said Andrus.

Andrus said CPS has reviewed CCTV from business and residences in the area.

"This incident is not thought to be random but a specific motive is not yet clear," said Andrus.

LUCIE EDWARDSON/METRO

Mourners lay out flowers.
AARON CHATHA/METRO

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INSURANCE

Alberta's August storms top $100 million in payouts

Southern Alberta's August storms have come with a $100-million price tag, according to the Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC).

On Tuesday, the agency said the storms, which occurred on Aug. 4 and 5, caused more than $100 million in insured damage, according to preliminary figures from Property Claims Services.

During those storms, Calgarians saw everything from flying roofs to submerged vehicles.

The city — including Chestermere and Redwood Meadows — was pummelled by hail as large as 4.5 centimetres and sustained winds of 50km/hr, with gusts of 78 km/hr.

"These storms continue to batter our friends and family and serve as a notice that we need to make sure our insurance policies reflect current conditions and needs," said Bill Adams, vice-president of the western and pacific region of IBC, in a news release.

METRO NEWS

3.5

During the storms, Sundre saw hail as large as 3.5 centimetres, while Patricia, Alta. had winds of 105 km/hr.
METRO NEWS

FRAUD

Man accused of bilking former company of $5M

Fraud and money laundering charges have been laid against a Calgary man, following a lengthy Calgary police investigation.

According to Calgary police Staff Sgt. Kristie Verheul, the fraud happened between 2007-2011 and the accused made almost $5 million.

Ian Wilson Fisher, 53, now faces charges of fraud over $5,000 and money laundering.

"The suspect created three shell companies that were used to defraud the oil and gas company he was working for at the time," said Verheul.

Verheul said Fisher was fired from his job in 2011, where he was in a position of authority.

91

Ian Wilson Fisher purportedly used shell companies to create more than 91 fictitious invoices for supplies and services.
METRO NEWS

It's believed Fisher made just over $4.9 million off the invoices.

Fisher will appear in court on Friday, Sept. 11 2015.

LUCIE EDWARDSON/ METRO

Mark Giordano, right, celebrates a goal with teammate Mike Cammalleri against the New York Rangers in Calgary on March 28, 2014. JEFF MCINTOSH / CANADIAN PRESS FILE PHOTO

Flames fans stoked for Giordano deal

HOCKEY

NHL club inks captain to six-year extension

Robson Fletcher
Metro | Calgary

Calgary Flames fans welcomed news Tuesday that the team had signed captain Mark Giordano to a six-year contract extension.

The 31-year-old defenceman, who still has one year left on his current contract, inked a new deal worth $40.5 million, or $6.75 million per season.

Flames fan Dustin Miller saw the deal as "a real steal of a contract from the team's perspective."

"It has length without a price that's breaking the bank on the salary cap," he said.

Dan Broyles, another avid fan, also saw the move as a positive one for the team, and for Giordano.

"This deal is perfectly balanced," he said. "Leaves enough money on the table to pay (Sean) Monahan and (Johnny) Gaudreau when their time to negotiate comes."

Josh Antonishyn said Giordano is worth as much to Calgary as star defencemen like the Nashville Predators' Shea Weber or the Montreal Canadiens' P.K. Subban, both of whom earn at least a million dollars more per season.

> **"It has length without a price that's breaking the bank on the salary cap."**
> Dustin Miller, fan

"It's also good that we have an excellent leader sealed for the next six years, unless he gets traded, but the odds of that happening are slim in my opinion," Antonishyn said.

After the Flames made the playoffs last year even with Giordano out of the lineup late in the season with a torn bicep, Broyles believes the team can set its sights even higher in 2015-16 and beyond.

"If Gio can replicate anything near last season and stay healthy, it is not out of the realm of possibility that the Flames can challenge for the Pacific (Division title)," he said.

Miller was similarly optimistic.

"Mark is an absolute key cog in this team, that hasn't played a full season since 2011," he said.

"Hard not for the imagination to run wild, thinking of a healthy Gio contributing full years and into playoff stretches in the years ahead."

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Kevin Chen, 10, a piano student with the Conservatory's Academy for Gifted Youth Program, will be performing at the new Taylor Centre for the Performing Arts' grand opening on Wednesday evening. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

New performing arts centre debuts

CONCERT HALL

Taylor Centre in the works for 16 years, costs $90.5M

Jennifer Friesen
For Metro

It's been five years since Timothy Chooi studied at Mount Royal University, but he's returned with his violin in hand to welcome the new Taylor Centre for the Performing Arts.

Currently a violinist with the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, Chooi will be performing at the grand opening of the community space on Wednesday evening.

"It's a big honour to be one of the first people to play in this new hall," he said.

"It's really nice because I remember we used to be in the old college, and it was nice but it was very small. So this is really nice to see that there's a dedicated music building just for the Conservatory."

As Calgary's first new performing arts centre in 30 years the $90.5-million space will house Mount Royal's Conservatory and the Bella Concert Hall.

With curved mesh panels, to imitate teepees and cherry wood canopy resembling an Alberta wild rose, lead architect Bill Murray said he used inspiration from the Albertan prairies for the open-concept design.

The project has been in the works for 16 years, with the concept coming to life in 1999, and construction beginning in 2012.

Now that the space is complete, Murray said he was "stunned" to see the reality of his renderings come to life.

"For us, it's probably one of the best concert halls we've done," said Murray.

"It kind of takes many, many years of having done these across America for different universities and compiling it all into one project, with all those lessons we learned."

The gala opening for the Taylor Centre for the Performing Arts will lift the curtains on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

Guests will include Don and Ruth Taylor, who donated $21 million to the project, and Premier Rachel Notley.

> **It kind of takes many, many years of having done these across America for different universities ... with all those lessons we learned.**
> Bill Murray, lead architect

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SCULPTURES

Dinos not for climbing, says museum doing restoration

Robson Fletcher
Metro | Calgary

One of the outdoor dinosaur sculptures in Drumheller that will undergo restoration. ROYAL TYRRELL MUSEUM

Please stay off the dinosaurs.

The Royal Tyrrell Museum in Drumheller is reiterating that message as it undertakes a restoration of nine life-sized sculptures in the museum's outdoor plaza, at a cost of up to $95,000.

"Although they are intended to be only for the visual enjoyment of visitors, and signage prohibits climbing, the sculptures are regularly climbed upon and handled roughly by visitors," reads a request for proposals for the work.

"All sculptures have varying degrees of wear — including minor to extensive paint wear, as well as chips and cracks," the RFP adds.

Georgia Ohm, the museum's project coordinator of exhibits and communications, said much of the wear is due to the "very dramatic" range of weather in Drumheller, with temperatures that routinely vary from -35 C to 35 C in a year and frequent hailstorms, in addition to heavy UV exposure from the sun.

"It's a much harsher climate than the Pachyrhinosaurus would have been dealing with in the late Cretaceous," she said. "And they also have to deal with aggressive mammals climbing on them — those being our visitors."

The fibreglass sculptures are "more delicate than they look," Ohm noted.

The largest sculpture, a six-metre, 272-kilogram Albertosaurus, has a missing tooth, a non-structural leg fracture, and paint wear.

The five adult Pachyrhinosaurus sculptures require "minor to moderate repairs," according to the RFP, while the three juvenile Pachyrhinosaurus need "moderate to extensive repairs."

The last time the sculptures were restored was in 2005.

> **They also have to deal with aggressive mammals climbing on them... our visitors.**
> Georgia Ohm

City crews finished painting just in time for Pride Week. PHOTOS BY JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

Crosswalk gets a rainbow makeover

LGBTQ

Community celebrates city's diversity

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

One Calgary road is rainbow-bright after an overnight paint job to bring the 8 Avenue crosswalk up to Pride colour code just in time for the LGBTQ celebratory parade next week.

The controversial painted lines of red, orange, yellow, turquoise, blue and purple were applied by crews Monday night with a little help from Coun. Sean Chu, who, alongside Pride organizers, watched the colours hit the pavement.

"I helped a little bit. You know, I'm not a professional painter, but it looked great," Chu said. "Apparently this is the biggest one, bigger than the one in Edmonton, so I guess the biggest in Canada so far."

Coun. Druh Farrell, who didn't attend the painting but supports the crosswalk in her ward, said although controversial in its planning stage, she's glad to have the colourful addition in front of city hall.

"I don't use LGBTQ rights and other human rights as a political football," said Druh. "I'm happy to have the rainbow crossing in Ward 7... ultimately it's a good news story because there's a benefit to showing support."

Calgary Pride president Stephen Wright wrote about his excitement in a release on the public display of inclusiveness in the community.

"Having the rainbow crosswalk featured in such a prominent location sends an important message to Calgarians, and the rest of Canada, that this is a city where diversity is celebrated, and all are welcome regardless of who they love or how they identify," he said.

When council approved the motion, which called for donated and privately fundraised money to paint the sidewalk, in late June, Coun. Brian Pincott tweaked the wording, making the City of Calgary responsible for the dollars and cents, adding the support of LGBTQ initiatives should not be dependent on "private funding."

In the end, a number of donors, including Calgary Pride and Chu, who told Metro he would be pitching in $1,000, have helped fund the project.

"I always said I would do that, so I'm doing it today," Chu said.

"It was interesting to see this morning driving up Macleod Trail to work and it's nice to see the colour. It's like art."
Steve Giesbrecht

"Using crosswalks to communicate different opinions and highlight certain issues is a good strategy."
Jimmy Hazin

"It's bright, it's colourful, it cheers up the joint. Diversity is wonderful and should be included everywhere."
Amy Espetveidtf

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IN BRIEF

Comparing our air

Calgary air quality was hitting dangerous levels Tuesday, but how did it compare with the rest of the world? Numbers recorded by the World Air Quality Index Tuesday afternoon show Calgary stacked up against some of the world's notoriously smoggy cities. Below are the pollution levels, measured on a scale from 0 to 300, with 0 being best.

Calgary: 239 — very unhealthy
Central Beijing: 55 — moderate
LA: 95 — moderate
New York City: 64 — moderate
Central Delhi: 132 — Unhealthy for sensitive groups
Sao Paulo, Brazil: 83 — moderate
Mexico City: 74 — moderate
Manila, Philippines: 153 — unhealthy for sensitive groups.

JEREMY SIMES/FOR METRO

The show must go on

GlobalFest wasn't required to postpone their Tuesday night performance, which featured a fireworks show from Spain, despite a fire ban issued earlier in the day due to dangerously smoky conditions in Calgary.

According to a post on GlobalFest's website, they were in consultation with the city and were assured their fireworks shows were excluded from the fire ban.

The Calgary Fire Department told reporters that the fire code restricts the public use of fireworks, and GlobalFest has a permit for their shows. Those would be restricted only if they posed a significant fire hazard during high-risk fire times.

They reiterated that this fire ban was due to air quality concerns, not fire risk.

METRO

Smoke clings to the Calgary skyline, forcing many people with respiratory issues to stay indoors. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

Calgarians left out of breath by smoke

HEALTH

Asthmatics, athletes take precautions

Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

Calgarians with respiratory issues were left feeling queasy and confined Tuesday, as thick smoke travelling from forest fires in the northern U.S. descended upon the city.

Not being able to sleep Monday night, Amber Craig, who is asthmatic, said her throat has been swollen since the smoke arrived.

Even though she's locked herself in her condo — closing all windows — since Monday, Craig said her symptoms have persisted.

In fact, she said her lungs and throat feel worse when she lies down; her airways become even more closed up.

"This is pretty crazy," she said. "It doesn't look that bad, but I can for sure feel it."

Like Craig, Calgarian Nicole MacPherson also stayed indoors on Tuesday with her kids.

At a time when back-to-school is around the corner, MacPherson said her kids can't enjoy these last days of summer — the smoke takes a toll on her 11-year-old who is pre-asthmatic.

> **We can't stand it outside.**
> Nicole MacPherson

"We can't stand it outside," she said, adding the family has been playing board games and watching movies to keep busy, as if it was a "rainy day."

As for those on the field, practice had to be cut short Monday evening for the University of Calgary Dinos football team, said Ben Matchett, co-interim director of athletics at the U of C.

"It's a little fortuitous because we play an exhibition game tomorrow night in Medicine Hat," he said. "So (on Tuesday), they are going to be on the field but not for more than an hour, and it will not be high intensity at all."

He said the U of C's athletic therapy staff has been out on the fields to help athletes who have pre-existing health conditions.

Although the Calgary Minor Softball and Calgary Minor Soccer associations have finished their seasons, both league representatives said they would have dealt with the smoke on a case-by-case basis and considered pre-existing health conditions of players.

The city's athletic parks remained open Tuesday, but were taking booking cancellations — similar to rainouts — due to the smoke, said spokeswoman Jessica Ranger with parks and recreation.

WITH FILES FROM LUCIE EDWARDSON

Banff air bottled: $15 a pop

Robson Fletcher
Metro | Calgary

As Calgarians suffer under smoke-filled skies, an Edmonton entrepreneur is hoping to cash in on Alberta's typically clean mountain air by compressing it in bottles and selling it online.

"It's a real thing," assured Moses Lam, CEO of Vitality Air. "We're doing, on average, about 300 bottles a month. We just started."

The company claims each large bottle of air, complete with a face mask to help breathe it in, contains at least 150 one-second inhalations. A large bottle of air from Banff will run you $15, plus shipping, while the same amount of air from Lake Louise is priced at $19 in the online store.

The large bottles are also available at the O.K. Gift Shop in Banff, priced at $22.49, according to a store clerk there who answered the phone Tuesday.

Lam set up the company in November 2014 but said he's only been actively selling air from Banff and Lake Louise for the past few months.

"Most of this stuff is going international," he said. "Our main target markets are China, India and Dubai, because the pollution is so bad there."

Lam said he got the idea for the company after an attempt at humour netted him a profit.

"It's really funny," he said. "I started by just selling a bag of air on eBay. One bag sold for 99 cents. And then another bag of air sold for like $168 US."

"This was all before the Kanye West concert air stuff," Lam stressed, referring to the online frenzy that resulted earlier this year after a zip-sealed bag of air ostensibly captured during a show on the artist's Yeezus tour drew bids as high as $60,100 before eBay cancelled the auction.

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Bryton Udy, left, and Quinn Wilton came up with the idea of a community brewery while in a class at Mount Royal University. CONTRIBUTED

Duo brews up beer plan

COMMUNITY BREWING

Members vote on what beers to make, then drink them

Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

Bryton Udy and Quinn Wilton love craft beer. They love craft beer so much, they want to craft their own craft beer. But they don't want to craft it alone.

Together they've formed The Well Brewing Company, an initiative where paying members can all vote on what beers the company will brew each season.

Members will receive their own portion of the brew monthly or bi-monthly, depending on their member tier. They began accepting their first members this week.

"Since we're both students and don't have a million dollars to go and throw into an actual brick-and-mortar brewery, we tried to figure out a way to we could develop a beer around a community," said Udy.

The duo is also offering 15 slots for upper-tier members, who will join in on executive meetings and have more of a direct influence on which beers will be brewed, and what options members will be given to choose from. Members in the Calgary area will vote during sampling parties every quarter.

Udy and Wilton, both students at Mount Royal University, are close to partnering up with Olds College and their brewing program.

"We've got kind of a school to school partnership brewing," said Udy. "No pun intended."

They idea for a community brewery was started in an entrepreneurship class at school. They were tired of popular, branded beers and felt there was an opportunity in Calgary for something new.

For more information visit www.thewellbrewing.ca.

IN BRIEF

Accessible transit fleet joins Calgary Transit

After HandiBus announced late last year their funding model was no longer viable the accessible transit fleet has found a new home.

"We're excited to have them join our team," said Calgary Transit director Doug Morgan.

"They have customer service skills that we want to take advantage of and there's real benefit in bringing the two services together to learn from each other." METRO

EDUCATION

Catholic board adding 101 portables

The Calgary Catholic School District will be adding 101 new classroom units, or portables, in the upcoming school year.

The majority will be going toward schools still in the design or construction phase.

It's a sharp increase from 2014, when a total of eight portable units were installed.

Catholic school district spokesperson Karen Ryhorchuk said the increase is because no new schools have been built in the district for a few years.

"(The year) 2012 was the last time we opened a new school, which was St. Isabella," she said.

Of the 101 new portables, only 13 will be installed in existing schools. The remaining 88 will be going to schools that are still being designed or under construction.

Ryhorchuk said it is common practice for school jurisdictions to build portables simultaneously with new schools as part of planning for future expansion in the area.

> **2012 was the last time we opened a new school.**
> Karen Ryhorchuk

"Those areas, if you look at the deep south specifically, they are high, high population areas," she said. "This just gives us the opportunity to be able to anticipate that future growth, so we can accommodate those students in that area."

Growth in these areas has already affected planning. At least two of the schools, Skyview Ranch and Silverado, were initially planned to be starter schools but were upgraded to full schools earlier this year. AARON CHATHA/METRO

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Former aide had audit concerns

EXPENSE SCANDAL

Woodcock tells court he never scripted senators' words

A senior aide in Prime Minister Stephen Harper's office who helped manage the government's response to the unfolding senate expense controversies in 2013 says he never "scripted" lines for Senator Mike Duffy or Conservative senators.

Chris Woodcock testified he merely pulled together comments that reflected their own views as they arrived at them independently.

Woodcock appeared defiant and sure of himself. But he stumbled at one part of his testimony when he said he was "uncomfortable" at only one point in 2013 when the PMO was trying to contain the Duffy story.

It was, he said, when emails were exchanged within the PMO discussing Nigel Wright's contact with Sen. Irving Gerstein over the latter's approach to Deloitte auditors. The firm was then doing a review of senate residency expenses at a senate committee's request.

Chris Woodcock, former director of issues management in the PMO, testified Tuesday that Duffy himself agreed to use the PMO's "lines" almost verbatim. JUSTIN TANG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The communications strategist agreed with Duffy's lawyer Donald Bayne that it would have been "improper" to script the conclusion of an audit, and denied that ever happened. He said, "I felt wary and concerned that if this was to cross a line" he might become "very" uncomfortable with it, but, he added: "As I recall it didn't get to that point.

"It didn't become a large problem."

Woodcock is the third senior PMO aide to testify for the Crown against Duffy in the suspended senator's trial on fraud, breach of trust and bribery charges.

A key part of the Crown's theory is that Duffy was an equal partner, if not the instigator, of the scheme to be "kept whole" if he admitted a mistake in his claiming $90,000 in dubious housing expenses and per diems.

Woodcock took issue often with Bayne, insisting he didn't direct what Duffy or other senators should say and that Duffy himself agreed to use the PMO's "lines" almost verbatim with only minor modifications

Woodcock has already said he never read an email from his boss Nigel Wright advising that Wright was going to pick up the $90,000 tab for Duffy's expenses "personally."

But Woodcock agreed with Wright's characterization of the matter in court: That Duffy's expense claims were a "politically embarrassing" story for the governing Conservative party.

Woodcock, who was director of issues management, a key communications strategist in the PMO, said he never really assessed the clarity of the senate rules. Yet he was aware that Duffy may have had an "arguable" case to make that he was legally entitled to claim the housing allowance after filling out forms that designated his primary residence in Cavendish, P.E.I., the province he represents.

He said he was also aware that Wright, then chief of staff to Stephen Harper, and Woodcock's direct boss, held the view that Duffy should not be "claiming for expenses he hadn't incurred."

Duffy's main residence was his longtime Ottawa home, although he designated that as his "secondary residence" for the purpose of seeking reimbursement from the senate for his living expenses.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ELECTION 2015

Greens attack NDP for missing debate

Elizabeth May is accusing NDP Leader Tom Mulcair of giving cover to Stephen Harper by refusing to participate in debates his Conservative rival does not attend.

The Green party leader says it's shameful that Harper — and now Mulcair — won't show up for a scheduled debate on women's issues, which has since been cancelled as a result.

May says the other leaders should be holding Harper's feet to the fire by attending the debates, leaving an empty podium to indicate the prime minister's absence. May, who is running for re-election in Saanich-Gulf Islands, is urging Mulcair to reconsider, saying it's not smart politics for the NDP leader to be so dismissive of a debate about women's issues.

The debate's organizers say they will instead hold one-on-one interviews with the leaders to discuss issues important to women — an alternative Mulcair said he supports, because it allows for a complete discussion.

Mulcair says he would have preferred the full debate format with Harper present, but barring that, the individual interview is the best he can do under the circumstances.

Elizabeth May
DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Meanwhile, the Green Party is changing a section of its platform after receiving criticism that it's inaccurate and "anti-feminist."

As May was promoting her willingness to participate in the debate on women's issues Tuesday, online critics attacked a section of her platform as harmful to women.

They noted, for example, it does not refer to domestic violence, aside from claiming that "false allegations" are common.

By the end of the day, the party had committed to changing the things people found offensive.

Julian Morelli, the party's communications director, said he's thankful the problems were brought to light.

THE CANADIAN PRESS, WITH FILES FROM JESSICA SMITH CROSS/METRO

ELECTION 2015

Harper's campaign trail focus back to economy

A feistier Stephen Harper appeared on the campaign trail Tuesday as volatile world markets pushed the election debate back to his favourite subject: The economy.

The Conservative leader launched a pointed attack on the Liberals' fiscal record of the 1990s, shared his concerns about the global economy and even took the unusual step of emerging from his tightly managed campaign bubble to mingle with ordinary folks in Quebec City.

Harper's day unfolded as turbulent markets rebounded in part from Monday's steep slide, crude-oil prices bounced back but stayed below $40 US a barrel and the dollar remained low.

"These are challenging times, but I think they speak once again to why this government's strategy is the correct one," Harper said in Quebec City, where he announced a plan to improve port facilities in the province.

"You do not — as any financial planner will tell you, whether it's from the prime minister on down — you do not run around and change your plans based on daily market news. You have a long-term plan and you stick to it."

The renewed focus on the economy arrived at an ideal time for Harper.

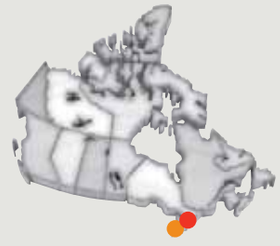
It has partly overshadowed potentially damaging revelations that have come out at the Mike Duffy trial. Harper has fielded numerous uncomfortable questions related to senator's expenses scandal in recent weeks.

> **You do not run around and change your plans based on daily market news.**
> Stephen Harper

The shift came as polls suggest Harper is locked in a tight three-way battle with the NDP and the Liberals.

It also coincided with a rare campaign-trail activity for Harper: Greeting people outside of a tightly controlled environment or a partisan event.

WHERE THE LEADERS ARE TODAY



- **Justin Trudeau** will be in Newmarket, Ont.
- **Tom Mulcair** will be in London Ont., and Stratford, Ont.

The itineraries of Stephen Harper and Elizabeth May were unavailable.

Harper and his wife, Laureen, emerged from their campaign bus in Quebec City's old town on Tuesday. They greeted people on the sidewalk and inside a coffee shop, where a grinning Harper posed for photos with staff and chatted with customers.

Earlier in the day, a scrappier Harper had used some of his extra energy to criticize his opponents. Harper went on the offensive when asked about Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau's new economic team, which features former prime minister Paul Martin, who helped balance the federal books during his time as finance minister in the 1990s.

"During the '90s, when the world economy had a better performance than it does right now, the Liberals lost control of the deficit," he said, adding that the Liberals hiked taxes and cut transfers to provinces.

Harper himself, however, has repeatedly been forced to defend his own track record, particularly after the economy shrank in each of the first five months of 2015. The decline was has been blamed in part on the oil-price collapse.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson is shown at the Big Cities summit in Toronto in February. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tories skip Ottawa meet

ELECTION 2015

Candidates cancel briefing session with city's mayor

Michael Woods
Metro | Ottawa

Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson's efforts to meet with federal election candidates hit a snag Tuesday morning when no Conservative candidates showed up to a briefing at his office.

Watson has invited candidates from all parties to meetings about matters important to the city, such as transit, infrastructure and affordable housing.

Watson said most Conservative candidates didn't respond to his invitation.

Three had confirmed their attendance — Pierre Lemieux (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell), Walter Pamic (Kanata-Carleton) and Damian Konstantinakos (Ottawa Centre) — but all of them subsequently cancelled.

"When we had to send out notification that no one was showing up, obviously I was disappointed," Watson said Tuesday morning.

But 20 minutes after Watson tweeted news of the no-show, he said Pierre Poilievre, the regional minister for Ottawa, called him to reschedule.

"He indicated there seemed to be some confusion on their part about the date," he said.

"If we hadn't had that outreach from the Conservatives, obviously I would have been very disappointed and somewhat frustrated at the lack of participation," Watson added.

"But I think they're doing their best to put that behind them and come up with a date and show up and get briefed."

Watson said he understands candidates are bombarded with requests during a campaign. But he said the meetings are not partisan; they're factual briefings conducted to give the parties a better understanding of the issues.

There are certain items on which he and the Conservatives don't see eye to eye that could come up. For example, the city has asked the feds to move the location of the controversial victims of communism memorial.

But the Conservatives have committed to funding a third of the next phase of the city's light rail project, for up to $1 billion.

"That's why I initially found it strange that we didn't have a turnout of Conservatives, because they can speak quite positively about their investment in transit with their firm commitment a few weeks ago on Phase 2," Watson said.

Watson met with the full slate of local Liberal candidates last week and Green candidates on Monday. He's scheduled to meet with NDP candidates next week.

NEW BRUNSWICK

Court case challenges liquor law

The New Brunswick Liquor Corp. could go out of business if a New Brunswick man successfully argues that he has a constitutional right to buy beer in Quebec for his personal use, says a senior official with the province's liquor corporation.

Richard Smith, senior vice-president with the NB Liquor Corp., testified Tuesday at a court hearing where Gerard Comeau of Tracadie is mounting a constitutional challenge after he was charged with illegally importing alcohol.

The New Brunswick Liquor Control Act limits anyone in the province from having more than 12 pints of beer that weren't sold by a provincially-licensed liquor outlet.

Without that legislation to prevent the direct sale of alcohol to consumers by producers, Smith said "it would risk putting us out of business."

Comeau launched his constitutional challenge over the right to buy cheaper beer in Quebec and bring it over the border after he was arrested in October 2012.

He was caught with 12 dozen beer and three bottles of liquor that he had bought in nearby Pointe-a-la-Croix, Que.

"I'm a Canadian citizen, I should be able to buy my merchandise wherever I like," he said outside the court.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Agency investigating outbreak of E. coli cases

Public health officials are investigating an outbreak of E. coli infections this summer.

The Public Health Agency of Canada reported 24 cases of E. coli in Alberta, Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia. The agency reports an average of 440 E. coli infections across Canada per year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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One womb unites three generations of family

HEALTH

Woman gives birth after her own mother donates uterus

For one family in Sweden, a pioneering procedure has led to a baby being born from the same womb that nurtured his mother, uniting three generations.

The new mother, who lost her own uterus to cancer in her 20s, said it was "unimaginable" that she now had her own child, thanks to her mother's donated womb.

"It can't be described how happy we are," she told The Associated Press in an exclusive interview. "It's everything that I hoped for and a little bit more," said the woman, who asked that she and her mother not be identified in order to protect the privacy of her 9-month-old son.

Dr. Mats Brannstrom, who is behind the revolutionary process, has ushered in four babies — all boys — with transplanted wombs; a fifth is on the way. He said there was something very special about this case: "It's one uterus bridging three generations of a family."

Before his breakthrough, there had been two attempts to transplant a womb — in Saudi Arabia and Turkey — but no live births. Doctors in Britain, France, the United States and elsewhere are planning similar operations with wombs from women who have died recently, not living donors.

Brannstrom, a professor of obstetrics and gynecology at Sahlgrenska Hospital at the University of Gothenburg and Stockholm IVF, first transplanted wombs into nine women about two years ago as part of an experimental study, including the new mother, who was the first. Complications forced the removal of two of the wombs. The women in the trial were either born without a womb or had it removed due to cancer.

> **This (procedure) was impossible until Brannstrom did it.**
> Dr. Antonio Gargiulo, endocrinologist

Brannstrom and his colleagues are planning more groundbreaking womb transplant procedures.

Experts marvel at Brannstrom's work and described it as the biggest breakthrough in fertility medicine since IVF.

"This was impossible until Brannstrom did it," said Dr. Antonio Gargiulo, an associate reproductive endocrinologist at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston who has not been involved in the operations.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A mother holds her child in an apartment in Gothenburg, Sweden. The procedure has led to a baby being born from the same womb that nurtured his mother. MARIA CHENG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BRITAIN

Big Ben's bongs all wrong

Don't set your watch by Big Ben.

Officials say the famous clock at Britain's Parliament — used by Londoners for decades to check the time — has recently been slow by as much as six seconds.

The 156-year-old clock chimes every 15 minutes and emits deep bongs to mark the hour. Its inaccuracy was noticed by staff at BBC radio, which broadcasts the bongs live at 6 p.m.

Ian Westworth, one of Parliament's three clocksmiths, told the BBC the clock had become "a little temperamental" with age.

"Imagine running your car for 24 hours a day, 365 days a year for the last 156 years," he said.

Parliamentary officials said Tuesday that mechanics had corrected the clock to within "normal parameters" - within 2 seconds of the right time. They will continue to adjust it by placing pennies on the pendulum — or removing them — to fine-tune its speed.

Parliament's neo-Gothic clock tower is one of London's most recognizable landmarks, and its bell is one of London's characteristic sounds.

The famous bongs echoed through the city without fail through Second World War bombing raids, though they have been silenced a few times for repairs, and by accident or the weather.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Train attack in France spurs terror investigation

Authorities are formally opening a judicial investigation into terror-related acts after a thwarted attack on a high-speed train last week. Prosecutor Francois Molins said the decision was based on the actions by 26-year-old suspect Ayoub El-Khazzani. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Caitlyn Jenner may be charged in fatal crash

Prosecutors began reviewing evidence and considering whether charges should be filed against Caitlyn Jenner over a traffic collision that killed a 69-year-old woman earlier this year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ENVIRONMENT

Huge loss in butterfly habitat

Illegal logging more than tripled in the monarch butterfly's wintering grounds in central Mexico, reversing several years of steady improvements, investigators announced Tuesday.

Almost all of the loss occurred in just one rural hamlet in the state of Michoacan. Loggers cut down 47 acres (19 hectares) of trees in San Felipe de los Alzati since last year's gathering of butterflies.

A total of 52 acres (21 hectares) of forest in the reserve were lost, including losses due to drought or pests.

That's the highest figure since 2009, well above the 20 acres (8 hectares) lost in 2014, according to the announcement by the World Wildlife Fund and the Institute of Biology of Mexico's National Autonomous University. The 2014 loss was about 12 acres (5 hectares) due to logging and 8 acres (3 hectares) to drought.

The forest canopy is a sort of blanket against cold for the masses of orange-and-black butterflies that form huge clumps on tree branches during their winter stay in Mexico.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Monarch butterflies hang from a tree branch in the Piedra Herrada sanctuary. REBECCA BLACKWELL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

LION

Safari guide killed in Zimbabwe park

A lion charged and killed a safari guide who was leading a group of tourists in the same national park in Zimbabwe that was home to Cecil the lion — the lion killed by an American bow hunter in July.

Quinn Swales was leading a walking safari in Hwange National Park when he spotted six lions on Monday, police spokeswoman Charity Charamba said Tuesday.

"One of the lions had cubs and they became hostile. Mr. Swales at first managed to scare the lions away but then the male lion later made a U-turn and attacked him," Charamba told The Associated Press.

None of the tourists were harmed, she said.

Swales was taking six tourists on a walking safari when he spotted fresh lion spoor and decided to track a pride of lions consisting of two females, two cubs and two males, according to the Zimbabwe National Parks and Wildlife Management Authority.

The lion, named Nxaha, attacked Swales, the parks authority said. The lion had a collar that allowed researchers to track his movements. The killing of Cecil in July by dentist James Walter Palmer just outside Hwange park sparked outrage in the United States. Cecil was also collared for an Oxford University study.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Warren Heslip, from New Zealand, gets a shirt at a staging area in Boise, Idaho. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Firefighters reinforced

WILDFIRES

Washington crews are battling largest blaze on record

Firefighters in Washington state were grateful to learn Tuesday that reinforcements were arriving from Down Under.

The firefighters kept a wary eye on rising temperatures and winds that threatened to expand what's already the largest wildfire on record in the state.

The Okanogan fires, which have claimed the lives of three firefighters, grew by 6.7 square kilometres Monday night and have now burned 1044 square kilometres. At least 1,345 people were battling the flames, officials said.

> **The Aussies are coming!**
> Fire information officer Rick Isaacson

The U.S. National Weather Service issued a red-flag warning for the area, saying temperatures were expected to climb into the mid-30s Celsius as humidity dropped and winds gusted to 32 km/h.

"Hot, dry and unstable conditions will create an environment conducive to increased growth on existing wildfires," the weather service said.

Later in the week, the forecast offered the potential for light showers and thunderstorms in Washington's Okanogan County, which is about 120 kms south of Penticton, B.C.

Seventy-one firefighters from Australia and New Zealand picked up equipment Monday at the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho, before heading out to help a ground campaign led by firefighters from across the West and augmented by U.S. soldiers.

"The Aussies are coming!" said Rick Isaacson, a wildfire information officer.

Sixteen of the Australian firefighters will be assigned to those fires and were expected to arrive there Thursday. They are mid-level fire managers who will mostly work in support functions, although some may operate bulldozers, Isaacson said.

Firefighters across the West have been overwhelmed this summer by destructive blazes tearing through the tinder-dry region.

The U.S. is in the midst of one of its worst fire seasons on record with some 20,000 square kms scorched so far. So many fires are burning in Washington that managers are taking extreme measures, summoning help from abroad and 200 U.S. troops from a base in Tacoma in the first such use of active-duty soldiers in nine years.

Also, nearly 4,000 volunteers answered the state's call for help, far more than will be accepted. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOSTON BOMBINGS

Juror voices doubts over death penalty

A juror in the trial of Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev says he probably would not have voted for the death penalty had he known that the families of some victims preferred a life sentence.

Kevin Fagan said on WBUR-FM that he likely would have changed his vote in the penalty phase had he been aware of the opposition to the death penalty by the parents of eight-year-old Martin Richard. Martin was killed by one of two bombs detonated by Tsarnaev, then 19, and his brother. The bombs killed three people and injured more than 260.

"If I had known that, I probably — I probably would change my vote. But then again, if I knew that, I wouldn't be on the jury either," he said. The judge ordered jurors to avoid media coverage of the trial.

Fagan, 23, said he believed the defence claim that Tsarnaev was influenced by his older brother, Tamerlan, 26, who was killed days after the bombings.

> **He still chose to leave that bomb there ...**
> Kevin Fagan, juror

But he said he came to the decision that Tsarnaev should receive the death penalty anyway.

"He still chose to leave that bomb there for about 4-1/2 minutes," Fagan said. "So it's hard to get away from that and the damage and strife that it caused."

Fagan is co-authoring an online book about his experience. Juror 83 - The Tsarnaev Trial: 34 Days That Changed Me, is expected to be released at the end of September. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Canadian and U.S. flags fly side by side in St. Bernard Parish in September 2005. CONTRIBUTED

special feature

After Hurricane Katrina hit, the first outside help to arrive in one devastated community was a team of Canadians. Metro's Rosemary Westwood reports from New Orleans.

Rescued by the 'Mounties'

This is the first in a three-part series on New Orleans's ongoing struggles ahead of the 10th anniversary of Katrina.

St. Bernard, Louisiana.

Wanda Crownin sits smoking a cigarette in Lehrmann's Bar, in a booth beside the pool tables, the weekend before the 10-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina.

The bar was made famous for staying open through the storm and ensuing crisis, an air-conditioned oasis for first responders including a 46-member heavy search-and-rescue (HUSAR) team from Vancouver, some of whom rescued Crownin's mother.

"They floated her on a mattress to St. Bernard highway, and a helicopter took her out across the water," she says. "We're always grateful."

Shaun Murphy, then a captain with the St. Bernard fire department who now lives in Tennessee, remembers first spotting the Canadians in the days after the storm.

"I saw these guys coming out of one of our neighbourhoods," he tells me. "I knew everybody who was supposed to be there. One of them said they needed some help to get a lady out of the house. And I said, 'Who are you guys?" He said they were from the Canadian search-and-rescue. I said, 'I'm not trying to be a smart ass or anything, but where the hell did you come from?' At that point no one was helping us — we were on our own.

"It was very mixed emotions," Murphy says. "One, the fact that somebody was actually there to help us was awesome, and the other part is that I can not believe, for the life of me, the United States of America, as big as they are, wasn't here, and the first help we got was from outsiders."

* * *

St. Bernard is a separate municipality adjacent to New Orleans, a bedroom community, a rural home to fisherman and shrimpers, and an industrial hub with a sugar refinery and two oil refineries. Before Hurricane Katrina, 66,000 residents lived there.

"The wind shifted after the eye passed," remembers Fire Chief Thomas Stone, who weathered Katrina's battering from inside his office on Aug. 29, 2005. "And I'm thinking, 'Oh, I think we made it.' Wrong."

The levees of the Industrial Canal to the west broke first, and Stone watched whitecaps roll up the road. The water rose 4½ metres in 20 minutes. It thrust houses into streets. It cut electricity, downed cell towers and left thousands of people stranded in sweltering heat.

"The wind shifted after the eye of the storm passed. And I'm thinking, 'Oh, I think we made it.' Wrong."

Thomas Stone, St. Bernard Parish fire chief

* * *

While people all along the Gulf Coast had fled the Gulf Coast, Tim Armstrong was trying to find a way in.

The province of B.C. had offered assistance to Louisiana, and Armstrong — one of the leaders of Vancouver's HUSAR team — secured a plane. They took off for Baton Rouge (New Orleans' airport was closed), but had to re-route to Lafayette mid-flight when they heard Baton Rouge was out of fuel. Upon landing, the team made its way to Kenner, where — within a 30-minute drive of the devastated communities — they were almost sent home.

The now infamously slow U.S.-government response had left victims of the flooding without food and water for days. There were rumours of mass looting and civil unrest (much of it later proved unfounded — people had mostly taken food and basic supplies). Authorities were preparing to send in the National Guard.

"You actually feel you made a difference ... I feel proud that we were down there and we were Canadian."

Tim Armstrong, Vancouver Heavy Search and Rescue

Rescue operations were on hold, the Canadians were told. They might as well leave.

"We're like, what? We've gotten all the way here to support and help and now they say there's no mission for you," Armstrong remembers, incredulity still in his voice.

Then two detectives with Louisiana State Police walked in. There's a problem in St. Bernard Parish, they said. "The town's totally under water, and the locals are trying to do the best they can and there's been no outside help come in there."

The Canadians had a mission.

* * *

Armstrong's first look at the community was of rooftops poking out of water as far as the eye could see. At emergency-operation headquarters, Armstrong met Henry "Junior" Rodriguez, St. Bernard's outspoken and boisterous equivalent of a mayor, and the reason why, to this day, some in St. Bernard still falsely believe they were rescued by the RCMP.

"He had a gavel and a jar of dill pickles beside him and a dog curled up around his feet," Armstrong remembers.

"Vancouver, where's Vancouver?" Rodriguez asked. Canada, he was told.

"He stood up and said, 'Hey everybody, the Mounties are here!'"

* * *

Before the Canadians arrived, Chief Stone already had about 100 firefighters commandeering any fisherman's boat they could find to search for survivors. With the Canadians came more resources and equipment, and a more sophisticated operation.

There were 25,000 houses and 3,000 businesses to search. The teams would start 12-hour shifts at 6 a.m. It was gruelling, gruesome work.

"The temperatures were in the high 90s, the humidity was very high," says Stone. "You'd go all day with a sandwich and a few bottles of water, so it was, like, rapid weight loss." He laughs a little.

"It was miserable. Everything you can think is in the flood water: human waste, dead animals, dead humans, hazardous materials that people keep in their homes."

A tank at one of the oil refineries was damaged, spilling about 1.1 million gallons of crude into the water too. They came across giant snakes while searching homes.

"People were in desperation mode," Armstrong remembers. "Everywhere we turned, people running out of their medications were swarming us when we'd arrive in areas. Trying to find someone to communicate with their loved ones. It was just absolute chaos, like you've never seen before."

Stone shows me a map of the community peppered with little red dots representing each of the 129 bodies found. Armstrong's first fatality was a mother whose family had floated her on a mattress for days, and who died from the heat.

"It was really heart wrenching to get people out of there, and then they still had no real place to go, and didn't know what was in store for them," Armstrong wrote in a dispatch from Sept. 3.

Ronnie Lehrmann, owner of Lehrmann's Bar, remembers the Canadians as among his rescue-worker clientele.

"We opened up from seven to 10, and sometimes six till 10, and we just gave everything away," he said.

"Sometimes you had 50 or 100 on the street out there waiting to get a cold beer. We had to blow a whistle every 15 minutes, say, 'OK, 10 people out, 10 people in.'"

* * *

In the decade since the storm, firefighter Shaun Murphy has become a Canucks fan, and Armstrong and Stone have become friends. Armstrong has been back to visit St. Bernard twice — he's now an honourary citizen — and Stone has visited Vancouver.

It's a friendship encapsulated in a single photograph, snapped as the Canadians were preparing to pull out after an exhausting week of operations. The team gave Stone a large Canadian flag, and he told them to hoist it on a makeshift flag pole.

"Then some of the U.S. Coast Guard guys got a little uppity about having a Canadian flag displayed," Armstrong says. "Of course, in true U.S. style, they had to find a bigger flag and fly it a little higher."

Katrina still looms large in St. Bernard Parish. Half the population had still not returned by 2010. Sprawling, lush lawns mark where houses used to sit. Stone jokes that St. Bernard is now the dollar-store capital of the world, while grocery stores remain scarce.

On Friday, Aug. 7, Armstrong got a package at his New Westminster office. Sent by Dani Babineauy, whose cousin was rescued by the Canadians, It contained a thank-you card, and a box of T-shirts that read "Mounties are our heroes to St. Bernard."

"You actually feel you made a difference in not just one person's life, but many," Armstrong says of that week in St. Bernard. "And I feel proud that we were down there and we were Canadian."

Tomorrow: A Canadian helps rebuild the Lower Ninth Ward

"People were in desperation mode ... It was just absolute chaos, like you've never seen before."

Tim Armstrong

"It was really heart-wrenching to get people out of there, and then they still had no real place to go."

Tim Armstrong

QUICK GUIDE: VANCOUVER HEAVY SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM

According to the City of Vancouver, the Heavy Urban Search and Rescue (HUSAR) Task Force is a special operations team of up to 120 members with medical, fire suppression, emergency response, search and rescue, and engineering backgrounds.

The task force rescues victims from major structural collapses and other hazards.

The HUSAR Task Force includes:

- Structural engineers
- Heavy rigging specialists
- Search specialists
- Logistics specialists
- Rescue specialists
- Medical specialists
- Physicians

The team was deployed to St. Bernard Parish on Sept. 2, 2005, and returned to Vancouver on Sept. 6. Over the course of their mission, they rescued more than 100 people.

TECHNOLOGY

TuneIn launches adless subscription

TuneIn, the app that gives users free access to thousands of live radio stations around the world, is launching an $8 US premium monthly subscription service that throws in ad-free listening, audiobooks and live play-by-play coverage of Major League Baseball and soccer from the Premier League and the Bundesliga.

The seemingly disparate offer caters to listeners who have varied tastes, says TuneIn CEO John Donham. That could be news in the morning, music at night, live sports whenever a good game is on, and a good book for long commutes.

"It turns out people want more than just one thing," he said.

The package is meant to emulate the kind of mix one gets from satellite radio giant Sirius XM: premium sports, talk shows and commercial-free music.

It turns out people want more than one thing.
TuneIn CEO John Donham

The offer launches in the U.S. on Tuesday, as well as in Canada where it'll cost $9 per month for Canadian users.

Ad-free listening is initially tailored to 600 Internet radio stations.

Terrestrial radio stations in the U.S. and abroad are planned to be added in the next few months, Donham says.

Launching a paid tier in addition to its free ad-supported service is born from the desire to add more content to the site that cannot be paid for simply with ads.

"If you reduce the number of ads by 10 per cent, the value of each ad would go up," he says. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The app's interface. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/TUNEIN

IN BRIEF

C.D. Howe suggests move away from paper cheques

A report by the C.D. Howe Institute suggests getting rid of paper cheques in a bid to modernize the country's payment system.

Author John Chant, professor emeritus of economics at Simon Fraser University, suggests businesses could save between $1.6 billion and $4.4 billion annually if they wrote 350 million fewer cheques.

The report estimates Canadians write about 800 million cheques per year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

market minute

DOLLAR
74.93¢ (-0.47¢)

TSX
13,339.76 (+98.19)

OIL
$39.31 US (+$1.07)

GOLD
$1,138.30 US (-$15.30)

NATURAL GAS: $2.695 US (+3.9¢)
DOW JONES: 15,666.44 (-204.91)

Chinese interest rate cut fuels TSX rebound

STOCKS

Loonie dips below 75 cents U.S. for first time since 2004

The Toronto Stock market recovered some ground Tuesday, making up for much of the loss of the previous session as China again cut interest rates in a move aimed at reviving the world's second-largest economy.

The TSX/S&P composite index was ahead 287.02 points at 13,339.76 in mid-afternoon trading, after falling more than 420 points on Monday. But the loonie continued to take it on the chin, falling to 74.93 cents U.S. by the end of the day, the first time it has been below the 75-cent mark since mid-2004.

Tim Caulfield, director of equity research at Franklin Bissett Investment Management, said Canadians have reason to be hopeful after the pounding the Toronto market has taken since the price of oil began sliding.

"A lot of the bad news is being priced into the market so when we look forward we become more optimistic about future return potential," he said.

The move by China's central bank to cut interest rates came after the Shanghai index dropped to an eight-month low Tuesday following a string of recent plunges that took it below the 3,000 mark for the first time since December.

China's economic slowdown started as a side effect of the Communist party's plan to steer the world's second-largest economy to a "new normal" of lower, steadier growth. It has turned into a nosedive that the party is struggling to reverse. THE CANADIAN PRESS WITH FILES FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The ticker in Times Square announces an upswing in market values Tuesday in New York City. MARY ALTAFFER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BACK TO SCHOOL

Students shopping more online: Google

Students are flocking online for their back-to-school buys — and they're starting early.

Google consumer surveys found that 26 per cent of post-secondary-aged Canadian students said they'll be shopping more for back-to-school items this year compared to 2014. What's more, 20 per cent planned to be finished the task a month before school starts, while 55 per cent will be wrapped up by Labour Day.

Back-to-school searches on mobile devices have surged, doubling from 2013 to 2014 and increasing more than 50 per cent in 2015 compared to the same time period last year.

Google said 48 per cent of Canadian smartphone making purchase decisions faster now compared to a few years ago because they're researching on their devices. Within an hour of an original mobile search, 75 per cent of "conversions" take place, such as downloads, store visits and purchases. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Amazon's web browser. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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metro VIEWS

A Canadian Medical Association poll found 29 per cent of doctors were willing to help terminal patients die, raising concerns about future accessibility of the service.

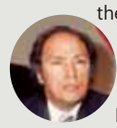
metro's election explainer

How does the economy affect voting day?

It's been a rough couple of weeks in the markets, with the Toronto Stock Exchange plunging seven per cent in the past month and the U.S. S&P 500 losing 10 per cent. The economy is on voters' minds as a recession looms, oil slumps and Greece and China stoke instability.

How is this likely to affect the federal election campaign? There are a few clues. A 2006 study of 27 democratic countries found the weeks surrounding an election tend to coincide with significantly more volatility in the markets, especially if the race is close, or power ultimately changes hands. According to Yale economist Ray C. Fair's model, a strong economy (of which the stock market is only part) tends to make undecided voters wish for more of the same and favour the incumbent candidate. Here's a trip down not-so-good-memories lane that could shed light on what the next weeks might bring amid an economy and an election both very much up in the air.

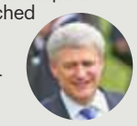
1935
Voters blamed Prime Minister R.B. Bennett for not doing enough to stimulate the economy during the Great Depression. He was trounced by Liberal William Lyon Mackenzie King.



1960s-70s
Buoyed by a booming postwar economy, the Liberal Party saw five consecutive victories between 1963 and 1974 — but at the end of that time inflation and malaise had set in. Liberal Pierre Trudeau secured the PM's job by a margin of just two seats.

1993
Battered by recessions, deficits and an unemployment rate of 11.3 per cent, Kim Campbell's Conservatives were crushed, losing 167 seats and official party status.

2008
During a fall election in the middle of the global economic meltdown, Conservative incumbent Stephen Harper preached the need for stability. He won a minority and, by proroguing parliament, averted an attempt by opposition parties to form a coalition and take him down. The Toronto Stock Exchange, ever averse to change, cratered by about 1,000 points over the course of a week.



The election explainer is dedicated to keeping urban Canadians informed ahead of the Oct. 19 vote. Look for it in this space throughout the campaign. Let us know what needs explaining: readers@metronews.ca

URBAN ETIQUETTE: ELLEN VANSTONE ON COEXISTING WITH CANINES

THE QUESTION

I live near a park where dog owners let their dogs off leash in the on-leash area. Should I say something?

Dear Ellen,

I live near a park where dog owners let their dogs off leash in the on-leash area, even though there is an off-leash area nearby. I think this is wrong because there are little kids around, and some of those dogs can be dangerous, but I feel bad about ruining the fun for the dogs.

Should I say something?
David in Edmonton

Dear David,

Whether or not you should say something depends on several factors. How big are the dogs? How big are the dog owners? How big are you?

If, for example, you are passing by a bunch of foul-mouthed thugs using dagger-tipped fighting sticks to play "fetch" with out-of-control attack dogs, steer clear. Even if there are little kids around who are clearly in danger, you'd be better off advising the children and their caretakers to leave the area rather than single-handedly trying to get the dog owners to take their fanged beasts elsewhere.

You might also — as you herd the groups to safety — discreetly call the city or police to report the behavior.

If, on the other hand, the pet owners you are passing appear to be civil human beings, and their dogs are cute and friendly, I encourage you to politely but firmly request they use the off-leash area.

This is not just your right, it's arguably your moral duty.

Owners who illegally let their pets romp off leash turn public opinion against dog owners, and make it much harder to win much needed space for off-leash romping.

There's also the question of hygiene. Even if the owners scoop any poop in the area, I doubt they're going to remove every last molecule of feces from the grass where you might want to sit, or lie down, or picnic, or let your own small mammals crawl around, taste-testing everything they can get their paws on.

The website doodycalls.com says the bacteria in dog waste can cause cramps, diarrhea, intestinal illness and serious kidney disorders in humans. And even cute and friendly dogs are still dogs; they get excited and jump and nip. At best they can trip you as they dart across your path, or snag your favourite sweater when they leap up to show you how much they love you. At worst, a darting, nipping mutt of any size can terrify the infirm or elderly, and easily draw blood from a toddler or infant, which must then lead to rabies shots and, possibly, a lifelong fear of dogs, not to mention talk of putting down the pooch.

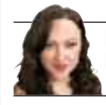
Finally, note that restricting dogs to enclosed, off-leash areas is also safer for the dogs. In Edmonton this year, dog owners are lobbying the city for more fenced-in areas after several dogs were reportedly killed in traffic near a popular off-leash area.

Don't worry about being a party pooper for the pups. You may be spoiling their fun in the moment, but you'll be doing them a favour in the long run.

Need advice? Email Ellen
scene@metronews.ca

metroview

I quit drinking. I felt amazing. And it ruined my dating life.



Liz Beddall
Metro | Toronto

I had an epiphany in October. I had passed out in the midst of yet another binge-drinking/binge-eating session and, upon waking with belly full and mind numb, it occurred to me that perhaps it was time to set this habit aside for a while, just to see what happens. So I did — and things happened.

Twenty pounds shed and happy as a clam, I'm now enjoying the most awake, energized period of life since I was a teenaged alcohol-virgin. I'm proud to bring San Pellegrino to parties, and I feel great while my friends are banging their morning heads against Advil and home fries.

But then that pulsating red heart pops up on Tinder, indicating a match, and I remember what's been lost.

The ongoing scandal of dating in 2015 has been exhaustively documented: Breakdowns over text message, heightists, weightists, no-shows, no apologies, no resemblance to the profile pic. It's an emotionally perilous venture, fraught with heartbreak, confusion and anxiety. And into this chaos I now had to tread without my wingman, the sweet, socially stabilizing companion called alcohol.

My sober dates thus far have been plentiful and tough. Alcohol is routinely brought up within the first two minutes and I, candid to a fault, often give over the truth immediately: "I don't drink, but please, please drink — drink abundantly, get drunk enough for both me and you." The confession invariably sends the date into sombre territory, a sterile atmosphere pervades, and the businesslike conversation ends with a stiff hug.

Back in my alcohol-soaked and very successful dating past, I didn't even have to get drunk. The social leeway afforded by the mere suggestion of intoxication — the free-flowing flirtation, the easy conversation, the silliness and (possibly feigned) charm that comes after even one drink — is so tied up in the ritual that, without a bottle in hand, my companions and I were lost.

Sure, my life was never better, but my dating life was never worse. So guess what I did? I decided that I would allow myself up to two drinks when on out-of-the-house dates. And so, following my next rightward swipe, at the risk of guilt and regret, I sipped. And it was amazing. Stella needed to get her groove back, and she got it — with a little help from her friend, Ms. Artois.

Over a glass of soda water I rationalize thusly: Growing up means seeking a balance, sometimes awkward, between an expression of happiness at night and confidently facing our reflections in the morning. As long as we're actively attempting to find the best footing on our own high wire, moral compromise is not only permissible. At times, it can be straight-up delicious.

Cheers my dears — and see you on Tinder.

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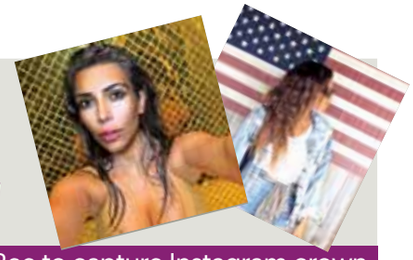

Kim Kardashian slips past Queen Bee to capture Instagram crown

Blueberry fields forever

AGRICULTURE

Time is ripe to buy from Canada's vast fresh crop

B.C. produces the most blueberries in the country, with 800 growers in the province. THE CANADIAN PRESS/HANDOUT

Whether they're cultivated or wild, juicy Canadian-grown blueberries are in stores now.

A hot dry summer in B.C. — which produces the lion's share of the fruit in this country, with more than 800 growers in the province — has meant the crop is farther ahead than usual.

While they're generally harvested until the first week of October, "we're going to be lucky if we go to the first week of September this year," says Debbie Etsell, executive director for the British Columbia Blueberry Council.

Meanwhile, on the East Coast, the harsh winter delayed the start of the wild blueberry harvest by about a week.

"The harvest is a race with winter," says Peter Rideout, executive director of the Wild Blueberry Producers Association of Nova Scotia.

"The fruit won't stand any frost at all on the vine so ... If we happen to get an early September frost, that would be a concern on fruit that hasn't been harvested."

There are two basic types of blueberries. Highbush, or cultivated, bear larger berries. Lowbush, or wild, are smaller.

The highbush plant was derived about a century ago by Elizabeth Coleman White, a New Jersey woman who teamed with botanist Frederick Coville to domesticate the wild blueberry plant.

Wild blueberries grow across the northeast up into the boreal forest, with the commercial highbush crop coming mainly from B.C., the Maritimes, Quebec and Maine, says Rideout. A small amount come from Newfoundland and Labrador and northern Ontario.

Look for fairly firm, sweet-smelling berries with no signs of mould or mildew and no crushed berries in the box, Foodland Ontario advises.

Store them loosely covered in their clamshell containers or transfer to a self-sealing plastic bag and refrigerate or freeze.

Take out what you need and wash just before use. Blueberries have a natural bloom — a silvery sheen — which is nature's protection. If you wash it off before storage, the berries won't keep as long, Etsell says.

About 90 per cent of the wild blueberry crop is frozen within 24 hours of harvest, which involves laborious hand raking and separating the berries from twigs and leaves.

"A lot of that frozen fruit will be transformed into dried fruit or fruit purée or preparations for dairy product," such as yogurt and ice cream, Rideout says.

Both wild and fresh blueberries are packaged frozen for sale throughout the year in grocery stores.

The U.S. and Japan are big export markets for both wild and cultivated Canadian blueberries.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

RECIPE: BLUEBERRY TURKEY BURGERS

Makes 4 burgers.

Ingredients

- 2 tsp vegetable oil
- 3 Tbsp barbecue sauce
- 4 whole-grain burger buns
- 1 lb (500 g) lean ground turkey
- 3/4 cup blueberries, fresh or frozen, roughly chopped
- 1/4 cup chopped green onion
- 1 large egg
- 1 Tbsp whole-grain mustard
- 1 Tbsp chopped fresh parsley or 2 tsp dry
- 2 tsp chopped fresh thyme or 1 tsp dry
- 1 tsp finely minced garlic
- 1 tsp paprika
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp black pepper
- 3 Tbsp bread crumbs or ground flax seeds (if needed)

Directions

In a bowl, mix burger ingredients and form into four 2-cm thick patties. If mixture appears too wet, add bread crumbs. Refrigerate until ready to cook.

Preheat a heavy-bottomed pan or barbecue to 350 F. Grease grill with an oiled paper towel or heat oil in pan.

Sear patties on medium-high heat, cooking for five to seven minutes until browned.

Carefully flip over, reduce heat to medium-low and finish cooking for another five to seven minutes until internal temperature reaches 165 F.

Brush with barbecue sauce and serve on buns with condiments of your choice.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Local blueberries are in season now. THE CANADIAN PRESS/HANDOUT

Into the wild blueberry

GET FRESH

Pick your own with a partner for a sweet and savoury mix

NUTRI-BITES
Theresa Albert
myfriendinfood.com

Wild blueberry picking is the most romantic date. Think of how much you would learn about a partner: willingness to hunt and pick patiently versus outbursts if the bucket spills, commitment to nature versus tramping on shrubs, resilience to mosquitoes and tolerance to bees (kill a bee, and our friendship is over).

But most of all, a love of wild blueberries that runs so deep he or she would spend an entire day to gather a few cups of the most delicious, high-nutrient fruit grown in North America. Or, you could buy them fresh and in season right now and go to the movies.

A few things I learned about wild versus cultivated blueberries: They grow in nutrient-rich glacial soils and thrive in harsh climates. They have a higher skin to pulp ratio (read: they're smaller) which means more antioxidants and intense flavour.

Blueberries aren't just for dessert; they are amazing as a sweet pop of taste in savoury dishes. Try:

- A salsa of blueberries, minced purple onions and vinaigrette
- On pizza with feta cheese and basil
- In an omelette with sweet mascarpone cheese along with blueberry tea biscuits

Being versatile, intense, full of life, resilient and hearty are great qualities in potential mates and blueberries. Go figure.

Theresa Albert is an on-camera food and health expert, nutritionist and writer who loves to spread the word on food.

CONTRARY TO POPULAR BELIEF

Fish oil pills don't prevent mental decline, study says

Fish oil supplements, which are high in omega-3 fatty acids, do not protect against mental decline, said a study released Tuesday. The clinical trial, published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, is "one of the largest and longest of its kind," according to the US National Institutes of Health, which funded the research.

"We didn't see any benefit of omega-3 supplements for stopping cognitive decline," said study author Emily Chew.

Omega-3 fatty acids are found in fish oils, and people who regularly eat fish such as salmon, tuna and halibut have been shown to have better eye, heart and brain health. But consuming the oils in pill form is not the same. AFP

PINOT GRIS

Wine from Oregon? Believe it

LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy

You're forgiven if you believe California is the only American wine producer. After all, The Golden State pumps out 90 per cent of the juice made in the U.S.

Believe it or not, every state (including Alaska) makes wine, with Washington and Oregon leading the non-Cali pack in production. Though Washington's near desert-like climate may not seem overly grape friendly, it's able to produce amazingly expressive wines; especially from Riesling, Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon. Oregon wines have a European flare, with Pinot Noir and Pinot Gris (a.k.a. Pinot Grigio) the base of the best of its best.

Firesteed Cellars, owned by venerable Howard Rossbach, is an Oregon trailblazer. Its 2013 Pinot Gris ($17.60-$19.99) is a dry, citrus-rich wine that swings heavily towards the Grigio side of the grape variety's personality.

Try it with some fresh white fish, lighter poultry dishes or as an aperitif alongside some prosciutto-wrapped melon.

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STK#: 155128A
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Preserve food with dry wit

THE DEHYDRATOR BIBLE

With this cookbook, you won't need store-bought

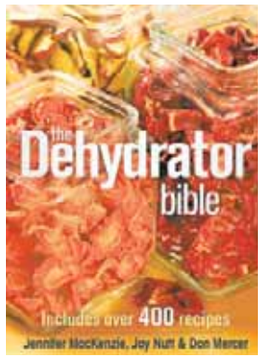
In The Dehydrator Bible, readers can learn the best ways to dry foods for their pantry and how to use the items in recipes.

An easy way to use up seasonal fruit and create treats to tuck into school lunches is to make fruit leathers.

"You literally purée the fruit, spread it out (on a dehydrator tray) and you've got this wonderful snack," says Jennifer MacKenzie, a home economist and co-author of The Dehydrator Bible.

Included in the book are strawberry and banana, apple and grape, peach and vanilla or watermelon, mango and lime among others.

Here's one recipe to try:



Apple, Cranberry and Oat Breakfast Crumble

- 2-l (8-inch) glass baking dish, greased
- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) dried apple slices
- 75 ml (1/3 cup) dried cranberries
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) ground cinnamon
- 425 ml (1 3/4 cups) unsweetened apple juice, divided
- 250 ml (1 cup) quick-cooking or large-flake rolled oats
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) whole-wheat flour
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) liquid honey or maple syrup
- Flavoured yogurt, for serving

In a prepared baking dish, combine apples, cranberries and cinnamon.

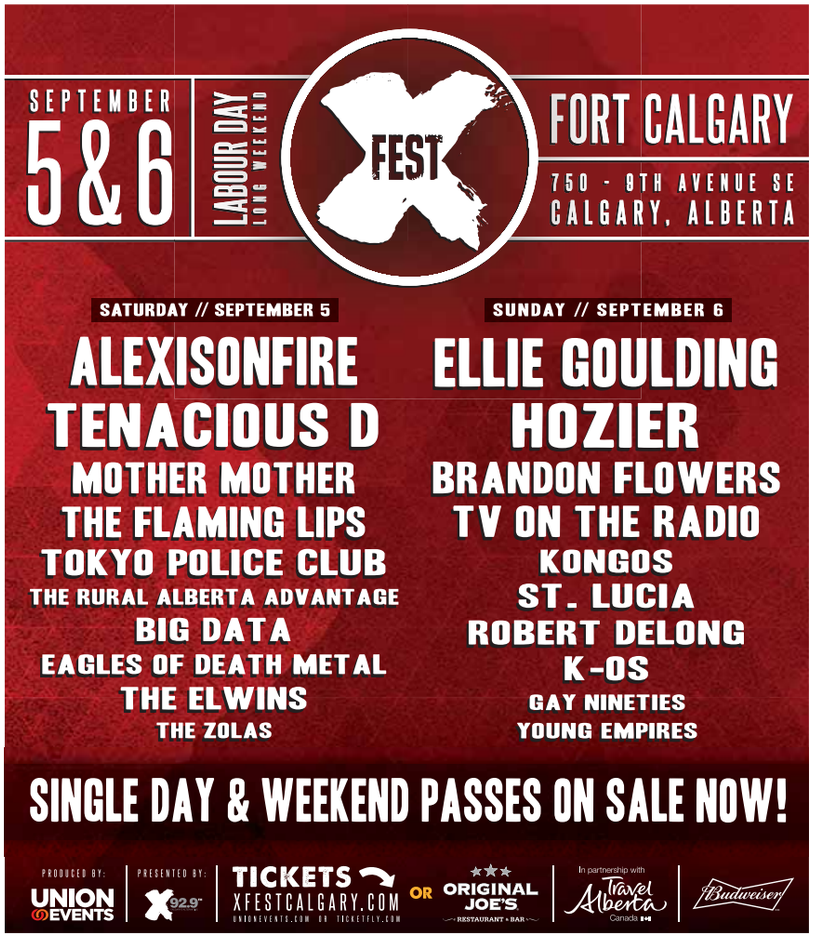
Pour in 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) of the apple juice. Cover and refrigerate for at least 8 hours or for up to 12 hours.

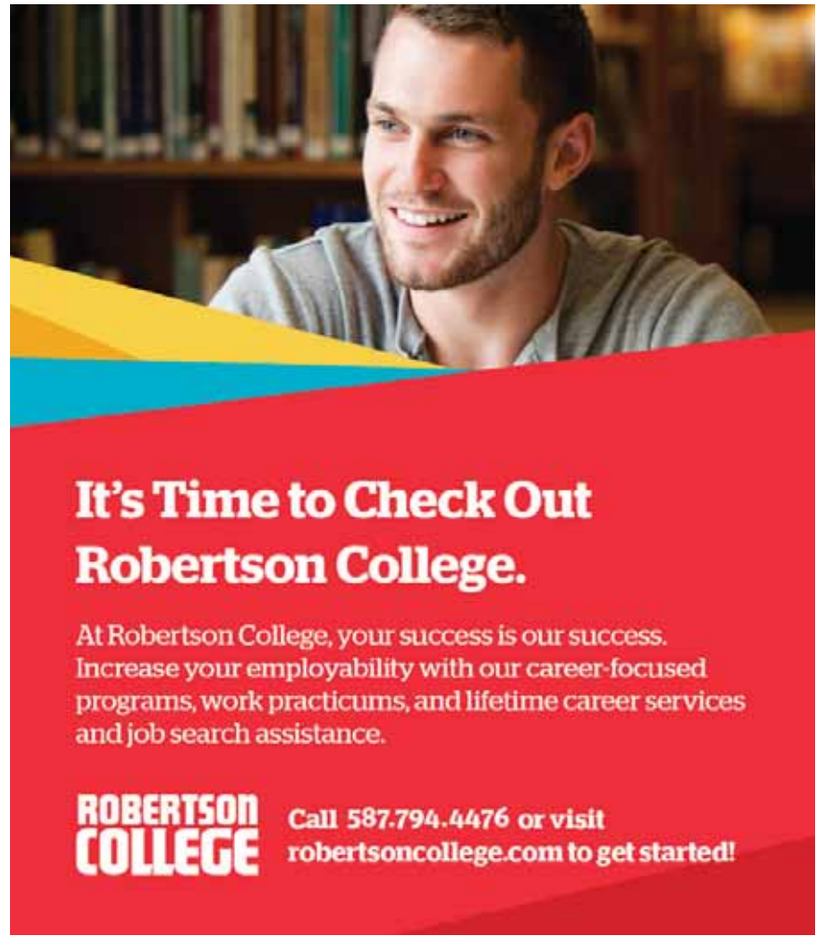
Preheat oven to 375 F.

In a bowl, combine oats, flour, honey and remaining apple juice, stirring until crumbly. Sprinkle over apple mixture.
Bake for about 20 minutes or until fruit is hot and bubbling and topping is crispy. Serve hot or warm, with a dollop of yogurt. Makes 4 servings.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Apple, cranberry and oat breakfast crumble is one of the tasty recipes readers can find in The Dehydrator Bible. HANDOUT

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Humble homemade jerky

TRENDS

Full of protein, dried meat and fruit make for great snacking

Eva Kis
Metro in New York City

Jerky has come a long way since we all started snapping into Slim Jims. What began as a novelty snack has become the darling of the Paleo world — minus the preservatives, MSG and artificial flavours, of course.

The best part is that all the bad ingredients that came out can be replaced with healthier, flavourful alternatives for a next-level snack that's low in calories but packed with protein.

We checked out Pamela Braun's new book, Jerky Everything, out earlier this month, for a few ideas, and had our minds blown by the variety of dried treats now at our fingertips.

SRIRACHA JERKY

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup unseasoned rice vinegar
- 1/3 cup + 2 Tbsp Sriracha sauce
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 2 tsp granulated ginger
- 1 tsp granulated garlic
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 pound London broil strips

Directions

In a one-gallon resealable plastic freezer bag, mix together all the ingredients except the meat, and allow the mixture to sit for 10 minutes.

Add the meat strips and mix them around so they get completely coated with the marinade.

Remove as much air as possible from the bag, seal, and place it in the refrigerator for 8 to 24 hours.

During the marinating time, work the meat around so the marinade is fully incorporated into it.

Remove the strips from the marinade and arrange in a single layer for drying. Store in an airtight container.

EVA KIS/METRO NEW YORK

The book's subtitle isn't Foolproof and Flavorful Recipes for Beef, Pork, Poultry, Game, Fish, Fruit, and Even Vegetables for nothing. Since it's so delish right off the grill, pineapple jerky is officially on our list of summer food experiments.

You don't even need to buy a dehydrator; for jerky, a gas, electric or convection oven will work just fine, Braun writes. Preheat to 200 F and place the meat or fruit strips on a cooking rack set on a baking sheet to better circulate air. Convection ovens take about 90 minutes; for gas or electric, start checking at 2.5 hours.

Jerky is ready when it looks dry, but bends it without snapping. If it does break, just stick it back into a new marinade and try again.

Among the over 120 recipes, there was definitely one that caught our attention. Sriracha sounds like just the spicy-sweet summery touch to elevate our on-the-go snack game.

"You'll be pleasantly surprised that the heat from the sauce kind of disappears in this recipe, so even if you don't do spicy, you can eat this jerky," Braun writes. "If you want to add some heat to this, toss in some red pepper flakes. The flavour will blend better than if you added another type of hot sauce."

HUNGER GAMES

Does being hungry make women feel less sexy?

In a U.S. study of college-aged women of normal weight, researchers found that women with a reasonably full stomach responded better to romantic cues than women who were hungry.

Using MRI imaging, researchers out of Drexel University observed brain activity among habitual dieters versus non-dieters. When fed, and then shown romantic images, both groups' reward centres in the brain lit up more than when they were shown these images while hungry.

Investigators say the findings reinforce the idea that diverse rewards (think food, gambling, alcohol and sex) are interrelated.

"Receiving one type of reward might affect your response to another type," says senior author Michael R. Lowe, Ph.D., a professor in the College of Arts and Sciences at Drexel.

"This may be due in part to the fact that different rewards overlap in the brain pathways they activate."

METRO NEW YORK

GOSSIP

Tyga's racy new track

This certainly won't make dinners at the Kardashian house any less awkward.

Rapper Tyga dropped a new track off his upcoming album yesterday called Stimulated, and while the steamy lyrics never mention his newly 18-year-old girlfriend, Kylie Jenner, by name, there's plenty of speculation that it is about her.

"They say she is young, I shoulda waited. She a big girl, dawg, when she stimulated," he raps. "She a big girl dawg, I'm puttin' in. Yeah I'm penetrating."

That's just lovely, isn't it?

NED EHRBAR/ FOR METRO

MERCEDES-BENZ START UP PROGRAM

Toronto designer a contest finalist

A Toronto-based womenswear designer has a second chance at success in an annual contest for up-and-coming Canadian designers.

Laura Siegel has been named as a wild card entry in the Mercedes-Benz Start Up program. She recently participated in the semifinal runway show in Thornhill, Ont., but didn't initially make the final cut. Siegel was also a finalist in last year's competition.

Toronto-based womenswear line Narces, designed by Nikki Worthensohn, and Montreal's Leinad Beaudet were also selected as wild-card entrants.

They join a trio of previously announced finalists, including Calgary unisex brand S.P. Badu by Spencer Badu and Montreal-based UNTTLD designed by Jose Manuel St-Jacques and Simon Belanger. Sisters Chloe and Parris Gordon of Toronto-based womenswear and accessory brand Beaufille round out the list of finalists.

The six labels will participate in the national finale at Toronto's World MasterCard Fashion Week. Each is vying for a prize package that includes a $30,000 bursary and a fully produced runway show during Fashion Week next March.

Laura Siegel.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Designers competing in Start Up must have a registered Canadian business that has been operating for less than five years.

This marks the fifth year in the nationwide search for Canada's emerging fashion talents. In addition to Thornhill, semi-final runway shows were also held in Calgary and Montreal.

Previous Start Up winners include label Martin Lim, Duy Nguyen, Cecile Raizonville of Montreal-based label Matiere Noire, and Edmonton's Malorie Urbanovitch.

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metro DRIVE

Your essential daily news

8 million hybrid cars sold by pioneer Toyota, 20 years after presenting its first concept car

A sports coupe with lots of sport

REVIEW

M235i Coupe one of the edgiest models in the BMW catalogue

Mike Goetz
Metro | Canada

The BMW M235i is built to a formula that driving enthusiasts never tire of — put a big engine in a small vehicle. This never fails to make the small vehicle go real good.

The M235i does not let the formula, or driving enthusiasts, down. This is a wonderful and understated sports coupe, which makes the most out its high-end BMW hardware.

The 2 Series is BMW's smallest car line. The M235i XDrive is at the absolute upper limit of the 2 Series range. The "M" prefix denotes it as one of BMW's new-to-North America "M Performance Automobile" models, which raises the sporting quotient over regular models, but not to the extent of full-on "M" models, such as the M4 Coupe or M5 Sedan.

It features a unique 3.0-litre inline six cylinder cranking out 322 hp and 332 "torques," M-specific chassis tuning with automatically adaptive suspension, upgraded braking, variable sport steering and exhaust, and Michelin Pilot Super Sport tires. The latter is as racy as premium, sporting tires get.

The not-too-dramatic styling is a perfect fit for the dual nature of this car. When you just want to schlep around town in comfort and save fuel, you can select the COMFORT or ECO PRO settings on the Driving Experience Control and away you go. When you want to access the M235i's wild side, you can select SPORT or SPORT + and away you go too, but way faster.

The XDrive all-wheel-drive system never detracts from the essential rear-wheel drive feel of this sports coupe. The 8-speed automatic is very frisky, and well suited to engaged driving. The M235i is also surprisingly comfortable over rough pavement.

The cabin is pretty much BMW standard issue, which is to say tastefully done, and with an iDrive master controller and some real switches and buttons (and no touch screen). The front seats are extremely comfortable and extremely adept at holding you in place when you're losing your mind (in a good way) in the corners. Not surprisingly, the rears seats are a bit tight.

The M235i can be had with every connectivity and active safety tech piece on offer by the industry, but as per premium German brand practice, option packages are premium priced. The nice stuff on our tester added another $9,350 to the $48,750 base price.

The M235i doesn't seem to have any direct competitors. It's the only compact, two-door, RWD sport coupe from the premium makes; the others offer sport coupes but one rung up in size class (like Cadillac ATS). Other competitors might include FWD-based go-fast premium coupes (like Audi S3), and maybe non-premium RWD coupes (like Ford Mustang).

THE CHECKLIST | 2015 BMW M235I XDRIVE

THE BASICS

Type. Premium, compact, two-door, RWD/AWD sports coupe
Power. 322-hp, turbo, 3.0-litre I6
Transmission. 6-speed manual or 8-speed automatic
Price. Base $48,750 (plus destination)

NOTABLE FEATURES

- ConnectedDrive package includes Internet, real-time traffic alerts, and concierge services
- M Performance Exhaust and Adaptive Suspension system
- To save fuel, automatic transmission disengages from engine when drivers take foot off the gas

MIKE GOETZ/FOR METRO

POINTS

- Previously known as 1 Series. All-new platform for model year 2015
- All 2 Series vehicles exclusively two-doors. Cabriolet model added for model year 2016
- Base 228i Coupe ($36,000) is RWD and powered by 241-hp twin-turbo "four"

MARKET POSITION

- Premium compact coupe for those who prioritize driving pleasure
- "M Performance Automobile" trim means more sport than normal, but not as much as full "M"
- Spiritual success to BMW's original small sports coupe, the iconic 2002, built from 1962-77

THE COMPETITION

Audi S3
Base price: $45,400

Mercedes-Benz C 350 4Matic Coupe
Base price: $56,050

Hyundai Genesis Coupe
Base price: $38,185

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An inside look at a casting plant

MANUFACTURING

A car is born: Crossmembers, other Chrysler parts made here

DRIVING FORCE
Jil McIntosh

During the Second World War, the Canadian government commissioned a factory on the west side of Toronto to build parts for military planes. In 1964, it was purchased by Chrysler, which used it to make engine components.

Now considerably enlarged and known as Etobicoke Casting, the plant is one of the company's top casting facilities. It uses proprietary aluminum alloy and high-tech methods to make vehicle crossmembers, as well as other parts that go into every vehicle the company sells in North America except for Viper and Fiat.

"Not many people can (make) these parts," says Ramsey Aljahmi, the plant's manufacturing manager. "There are very rigid quality requirements for these structural parts."

QUALITY CONTROL

- The plant runs three shifts, primarily because keeping the machines at a constant temperature, instead of cooling and reheating between shifts, improves quality.
- Silafont scraps can be melted and reused, but each batch must be chemically analyzed and the "ingredients" adjusted if necessary.
- Automakers are using increasing amounts of materials such as aluminum to reduce weight and improve fuel economy.

The plant makes many of its parts from a traditional alloy called 380, which is delivered molten from a nearby supplier. But it's too brittle for making crossmembers, which not only need some flexibility to handle road stress, but have to be strong enough to support all the suspension parts bolted to them.

For that, the plant uses a special alloy called Silafont, developed in Germany and available from a single North American supplier in Missouri. Since it's too far away to deliver molten, the alloy arrives in ingots that are melted in furnaces in the plant. It's injected into the moulds at very high speed and high pressure, filling the cavity in less than one-tenth of a second. While it would take six to eight minutes to cast the part conventionally, the high-pressure system does it in two.

Any trapped air in the part could cause it to fail, and so each is X-rayed with 46 separate images. "It's like doing an MRI on every single part," Aljahmi says. "If one portion solidifies at a different rate, it can cause voids in the casting."

Parts that pass the X-ray screening are sprayed with fluorescent penetrating fluid, rinsed and then examined under blacklight, where workers look for any traces of glowing fluid that could indicate tiny cracks. Finally, they're stamped with an approval code and shipped out to vehicle assembly factories.

The plant is considered so good at what it does that its engineers have helped to train other casting facilities, including one of Fiat's key suppliers in Italy. It's also believed to be the largest single user of Silafont alloy worldwide, and will cast some 20.4 million kilograms of it this year.

From left: A robot quenches a freshly cast crossmember to cool it off and harden it; a conveyor takes crossmembers to the X-ray machine for quality control; crossmembers wait their turn to be inspected; crossmembers are sprayed with fluorescent fluid so that workers can check them for any tiny cracks. JIL MCINTOSH/FOR METRO

TEXT AND IMAGES BY WHEELBASE MEDIA

Furniture, and a free charge-up

THE GREEN ANGLE

Metro's weekly picks for the latest in environmental news

PLUG-IN STATIONS

Ikea courts EV drivers

Swedish build-it-yourself homeware chain Ikea will provide free electric vehicle charging at all 12 of its Canadian stores by summer's end. Ikea announced at the recent Climate Summit of the Americas in Toronto that it will install two charging stations at each of its Canadian outlets and could add more if demand warrants. The stations will be compatible with every electric car currently sold in the country and be available on a first-come basis.

BETTER EFFICIENCY

Refreshed 500 is more 'mature'

The original FIAT 500 was introduced on July 4, 1957. Fifty years later, on July 4, 2007, FIAT introduced the modern FIAT 500, which embodied much of the spirit and personality of the original. And on July 4, 2015, FIAT unveiled a "refreshed" 500. "It has not grown in size, but in maturity," with advanced technologies, improved efficiency and more customization ideas, FIAT said in a press release. Available in two body styles, hatchback and convertible, all models have LED daytime running lights, seven airbags, six-speaker infotainment system with USB ports and steering wheel controls as standard equipment.

FUEL-CELL VEHICLES

Japanese automakers help develop hydrogen refuelling network

Japan's three largest automakers have launched a joint effort to support construction of public hydrogen fuelling stations across the island nation, supporting the government's commitment to fuel-cell cars as part of its vision of developing a hydrogen economy.

Measures taken by Honda, Nissan and Toyota will include underwriting a third of the operating costs incurred by infrastructure companies that build the fuelling stations, to a cap of about $90,000 US apiece.

The program will run until fuel-cell vehicles (FCVs) become well established in the market "and the development of hydrogen station infrastructure is well underway."

The 2016 Toyota Mirai fuel-cell sedan is already on sale in Japan; Honda will launch an FCV there next year.

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metro SPORTS
Your essential daily news

Mario Balotelli is being loaned back to AC Milan after a disastrous year at Liverpool

Flames lock up captain for another six years

NHL

Giordano looks to bounce back from bicep tear

66

Giordano has 66 goals and 179 assists in 510 career games, all with Calgary.

The Calgary Flames checked the top task off their summer to-do list by signing captain Mark Giordano to a six-year contract extension.

The 31-year-old defenceman still has a year remaining on his current contract, but Flames general manager Brad Treliving said in May that re-signing Giordano was his "No. 1 priority" this off-season.

The deal announced Tuesday is worth $40.5 million US, at $6.75 million per season.

"Mark has established himself over the last few years as an elite defenceman in the league," Treliving told The Canadian Press. "We look at it as we got our captain, our leader, our best player under a contract at what we feel is a very competitive number."

The length of the contract was key to the negotiations, said Giordano.

"Term was the most exciting part for me," the captain said. "I think the number works. I don't feel by any means I took less money than I deserve. It's a fair deal.

"The only way to get a six-year deal was to make it a fair number that works for both sides."

Despite missing the last quarter of the regular season, Giordano posted a career-high 48 points in 61 games to finish fifth in team scoring.

The six-foot, 200-pound rearguard was on track for Norris Trophy consideration when he tore his bicep Feb. 25 in a road game against the New Jersey Devils.

"I'm probably of the camp that if he doesn't get injured this season, there's a likelihood that not only is he nominated for the Norris, but I believe he's deserving to win it," Treliving said.

> **This deal helps keep me around for a long time and hopefully until the end of my career.**
> Mark Giordano

Mark Giordano's extension is worth $40.5 million US. RICHARD WOLOWICZ/GETTY IMAGES

Giordano was a catalyst in the attack speed the Flames generated from their back end. He insisted at the time of his injury that his absence should not prevent the Flames from making the playoffs for the first time since 2009.

The Toronto native watched from the press box as the Flames secured a playoff berth in their last home game of the regular season. Calgary played 11 playoff games before bowing out to the Anaheim Ducks in the second round.

Giordano, who was in Toronto on Tuesday when his new contract was announced, says he's recovered from the bicep injury and subsequent surgery. NHL training camps open Sept. 17.

"I've been skating at 100 per cent, shooting at 100 per cent and working out at 100 per cent for a while now," Giordano said. "It's been well over a month of going full out. I'll be ready for camp." THE CANADIAN PRESS

ASTROS BLAST BRONX BOMBERS Astros shortstop Carlos Correa stretches to catch a throw at second base against the Yankees' Brett Gardner in New York on Tuesday night. Carlos Gomez and Evan Gattis both homered and drove in four runs, helping Houston win in blowout fashion, 15-1.
KATHY WILLENS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB

Jays rally late for win in Texas

Troy Tulowitzki had a game-tying RBI single in the ninth inning before Adrian Beltre's throwing error allowed another Toronto run to score as the American League East-leading Blue Jays rallied for a 6-5 victory over the Texas Rangers on Tuesday night.

Rangers closer Shawn Tolleson walked two of the first three batters he faced. After pinch-hitter Justin Smoak flied out, Tulowitzki looped a single to left to tie the game 5-5.

Josh Donaldson then hit a high chopper to Beltre, the four-time Gold Glove third baseman who fielded the ball before a wide throw to first base.

TUESDAY In Arlington

6	5
BLUE JAYS	RANGERS

It was only the second blown save this season for Tolleson (5-3), who has 25 saves and had converted his past 12 chances.

LaTroy Hawkins (3-1) gave up three singles in a scoreless eighth before Roberto Osuna worked the ninth for his 15th save in 16 chances.

Toronto is 20-4 since acquiring Tulowitzki in a trade with Colorado last month. The Blue Jays took a one-game division lead after the New York Yankees lost 15-1 earlier Tuesday to AL West-leading Houston, which leads Texas by 4-1/2 games.

The Rangers still hold the AL's second wild card after having their three-game winning streak snapped. They have won nine of their last 12 games.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Ticats to retire Mosca's number as he raises awareness for Alzheimer's

He epitomized toughness and tenacity during his playing days with the Hamilton Tiger-Cats, but Angelo Mosca wants the retirement of his No. 68 to shed light on who he is now.

The former defensive lineman, 78, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in February. "I'm happy I've made awareness of what's wrong with me," Mosca told reporters Tuesday.

Mosca, who played for Hamilton in 1958-59 then from 1963 until 1972, will be only the second player in club history to have his jersey retired.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canucks use balanced attack to beat Dominicans

Brady Heslip poured in a game-high 14 points and four other Canadians scored in double figures on Tuesday as Canada's men's national team defeated the Dominican Republic 86-74 at the 2015 Tuto Marchand Continental Cup.

Anthony Bennett, Philip Scrubb and Melvin Ejim each contributed 12 points for Canada, which improved to 3-0 at the tournament, while Andrew Wiggins added 11.

The Canadians started slowly, but managed to take a 21-19 lead into the second quarter. Canada started to heat up in the second — including three straight threes — and owned a 48-31 advantage by halftime.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

QB Vick joins Steelers

Michael Vick needed a job. The Pittsburgh Steelers needed a backup QB.

One solid workout solved both problems. The Steelers signed the four-time Pro Bowler to a one-year deal on Tuesday night, hopeful there's enough game left in the 35-year-old's still dangerous legs to provide the defending AFC North champions some insurance should something happen to Ben Roethlisberger. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RECIPE Mushroom, Spinach and Asian Chicken Salad

EAT LIGHT AT HOME

Rose Reisman
rosereisman.com
@rosereisman

Filling enough to be a main course meal! Serves 4.

Ready in
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 12 minutes

Ingredients
- 4 oz boneless skinless chicken breasts, diced
- 1 Tbsp cornstarch
- 2 tsp vegetable oil
- 6 cups sliced mushrooms (any variety)
- 8 cups baby spinach

Dressing
- 2 Tbsp low-sodium soy sauce
- 1 1/2 Tbsp rice vinegar
- 1 Tbsp sesame oil
- 2 tsp honey
- 1 tsp crushed garlic
- 1/2 tsp minced ginger

Garnish
- 2 tsp toasted sesame seeds

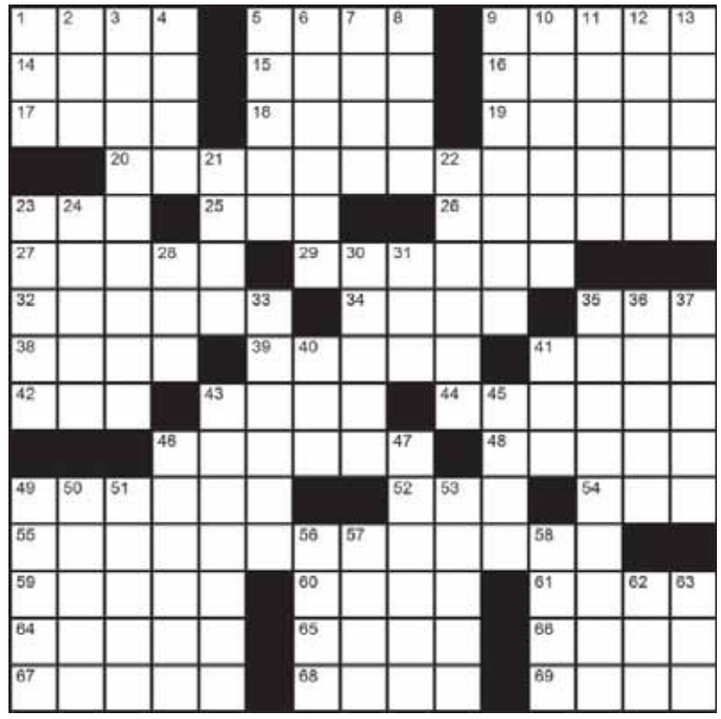
Directions
1. Dust chicken cubes with cornstarch. In a medium hot skillet, add oil and sauté for about four minutes or just until chicken is cooked right through. Set aside.
2. Wipe out skillet and spray with vegetable oil. Sauté mushrooms on medium heat until all the moisture has been absorbed.
3. Dressing: In a small bowl, combine all ingredients.
4. Place spinach on a serving platter and add mushrooms and chicken. Pour dressing over top, mix gently and garnish with sesame seeds.

Nutrition per serving
- Calories 111
- Protein 10.5 g
- Carbohydrates 10 g
- Fibre 2 g
- Total fat 4 g
- Saturated fat 0 g
- Cholesterol 16 mg
- Sodium 288 mg

PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Rocker/actor Mr. Springfield
5. Kitchen amt.
9. Ms. Winfrey
14. Agenda
15. Back
16. New Orleans-set HBO series of 2010 to 2013
17. Same: French
18. Inactive
19. Gradually diminish
20. Famous _ _ (World renowned black light puppetry company founded in Toronto in 1974)
23. Barely get by
25. Potpie morsel
26. Q. "Dylan Thomas, was he _ _ poet?" A. "Indeed."
27. Major artery
29. Abundant
32. Judge props
34. Pull in wages
35. "Survivor" network
38. Panache
39. Swap stock
41. Earth goddess of yore, variantly
42. Operated
43. Rupture
44. Timber decay: 2 wds.
46. Voice box
48. Beerless beer bottle
49. Sacred structure
52. Charlotte of "Diff'rent Strokes"
54. Listener
55. Margaret Atwood's nickname: 3 wds.
59. "The Man from _.-._.-._." (2015)
60. Potato chip brand
61. Tuner
64. Donald Sutherland's profession
65. Sheltered, nautically
66. Jealousy
67. Red Sea sailing vessels
68. Caesar's 1450
69. Pulitzer-winning writer James

DOWN
1. Circling stat.
2. 'Duct' suffix (Malleable)
3. Vacationer's home-on-wheels
4. Sports pad spot
5. Hogwash
6. James Blunt album: 'Back to _'
7. Pelletier's skating partner
8. Briefly get ready
9. Denizen of one of Canada's biggest cities
10. Spoke to God
11. Force back
12. Continental neighbours of Canadians, briefly
13. Famed journalist Seymour
21. Iridescent gem
22. In a den, as an animal
23. Gung-ho
24. Eucalyptus muncher
28. Coffee break time
30. Pine
31. "Way cool!"
33. "Connected" by _ MC's
35. Hardwood alternative
36. Region's plant and animal life
37. Ancient companion for Dionysus
40. Light beam
41. Class to be last-picked in :(
43. Family members on "Full House"
45. Movie projector attachment
46. Be inconspicuous: 2 wds.
47. Got imagery of the skeleton
49. Team
50. Intuition
51. Verso's pal amongst the pages
53. American nature photographer Mr. Adams
56. Flim-_ (Swindle)
57. Math class [abbr.]
58. Approximation
62. "5th _. Girl" (1939)
63. Caustic solution

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
Good news will come your way today but maybe it would be smart not to read into it. In life you get nothing for free, not even from people who are generous by nature, so be careful.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
There may be no such thing as a perfect day but today will come close. Personally, professionally, romantically and financially you are on a roll — keep it going.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
If you want something enough you will find a way to get it, even if certain people don't want you to have it. Today will remind you that some of the best things in life don't have to be worked too hard for.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
You need to decide whether to forgive someone who has let you down badly. They say a leopard can't change its spots, so err on the side of caution and don't let them hurt you again.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You will find it remarkably easy to charm your way to success today and maybe make a fortune in the process. But don't make claims now that you may find hard to live up to.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
With Jupiter so strong in your sign you are not going to sit at home watching the TV or reading a book. You want excitement and you will go anywhere and do anything to get it.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Something you were hoping would remain a secret will be brought into the open today but it won't be as embarrassing as you feared it would be. In fact, no one cares in the slightest.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Your generosity will make you friends today but it could also get you into trouble, especially if you are too trusting of people you don't know well. What happened to that overly suspicious Scorpio?

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You are worrying about issues that are not worth the effort. Today's Sun-Jupiter link promises that whatever you do things will work out well, so quit fretting and enjoy.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You cannot go wrong today. You will have the world eating out of your hand. You don't even need to be wary of people in positions of authority — they love you too!

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Do you spend more quality time with family and friends or do you focus on making a name for yourself on the work front? Only you can decide but don't think it has to be one or the other.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Try not to take affairs of the heart oo seriously today. A new relationship may be making your heart beat faster but it may just be a short-term fling, so don't get too attached.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

1			5					
6	7		8	4			3	
7		9		3				4
5				2				9
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					4			2

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